Colorado for Family Values
228 N. Cascade Avenue Suite 102 Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903
Phone (719) 577 4918 FAX (719) 471 1356

Thursday, p.m.

Dear Pastor,

You've probably heard about Colorado for Family Values (CFV), the citizens' organization that has collected nearly 85,000 signatures from around the state, to place on the November ballot the a proposed amendment to Colorado's Constitution saying, in essence: **"Shall there be an amendment to prohibit homosexual orientation from entitling a person to claim special minority class status and benefits?"**

(See actual amendment wording on the back of this letter)

I'm writing you today to explain my reasons for supporting Amendment 2, and to clarify what the impact of this amendment will be on persons who are homosexuals — as well as on the future ministry of your church.

As I've spoken with pastors throughout our State, many have told me they face a dilemma over Amendment 2. Some put it this way:

"How can I maintain a public, Biblical stand against homosexual behavior — while at the same time ministering Christ's love to gay people and their families?"

From the outset, this has been the heart of CFV's leadership. We are very aware of the sensitivity of this issue, and that many loved ones of church members are impacted by the effects of family and friends' sexual involvement. As a Christian, I, too, have wrestled with this dilemma in my own heart. And I have from the beginning supported Amendment 2 with this understanding: while Amendment 2 opposes special rights for the "gay" lifestyle, CFV does not oppose homosexual individuals as citizens and fellow human beings. But we believe that we must stop the militant "gay" agenda <u>so that ministry to homosexuals and their friends and loved ones may, in fact, continue</u>.

You see, we perceive grave dangers to churches from "gay rights" laws — which have been used to attempt forced <u>acceptance</u> of the homosexual lifestyle by people who sincerely believe it is wrong. As just one example, right here in Colorado, a proposed "Ethnic Harassment Bill," defeated in our House of Representatives February, 1991, <u>would have made it a felony crime for ministers simply to share plain Scriptural injunctions against homosexuality</u>. (See enclosed "Church Concerns Regarding the 'Gay Rights' Issue" for more examples of such abuses of individual conscience.)

In such an intimidating atmosphere of forced acceptance, churches would find it much more difficult to minister to homosexuals as persons living in

sin, with Christ as the Source of forgiveness and the Restorer of hope for relationship with God.

Unfortunately media coverage generally distorts our views on this issue, depicting us as uncompassionate aggressors against the basic civil rights of homosexual persons. The truth is, Americans are compassionate people. We've long offered special civil rights protections to groups subject to discrimination because of age, race, handicap or national origin. But now, militant homosexual groups have come forward to demand special civil rights reserved for true, disadvantaged minorities.

"Gays" are seeking these rights, not on the basis of traditional civil rights criteria - which involve clearly observable, non-behavioral characteristics, severe disadvantagement and political powerlessness - but solely on the basis of "sexual orientation. In other words, homosexual militants want to receive special civil rights protections simply because of how they wish to engage in sexual relations.

Seven states and more than 90 cities (including Colorado's Aspen, Boulder and Denver) have enacted "gay rights" laws giving homosexuals such special civil rights protections. However, mounting evidence demonstrates clearly that these laws are unnecessary to protect the fundamental Constitutional rights of homosexuals. As you'll see from the enclosed information, though homosexuals represent (according to most recent studies, see enclosed) only 1%-3% of the population, their income, professional status, educational achievement and political clout are well above those of average Americans - and enormously higher than those of the truly disadvantaged Americans whose special protected status homosexuals hope to share.

In fact, as John Franklin, past Chairman of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, has pointed out, "gays" fit the profile of a powerful, affluent special interest group far more closely than they do any sort of "oppressed minority group." As I'm sure you'll agree, wealthy special interests should not benefit from special civil rights protections reserved for truly disadvantaged ethnic groups. Yet if "gays" secure the same special civil rights protections as presently protected groups, this would be the case. This is why some of this state's most prominent minority and civil rights leaders support CFV's position.

While my heart is deeply burdened for homosexual individuals and their loved ones, I cannot simply sit still and watch both the ministry of the Gospel and the meaning of civil rights eroded in this way. The most compassionate act I can think of right now is to take a strong stand against any attempt to encourage society's acceptance, protection and promotion of homosexuality.

You alone can decide what your response must be. As a senior pastor and spiritual leader, is it your responsibility to give guidance on this issue to your people? If the people of God won't provide compassionate

moral leadership in our state, will society inevitably be led by those with a different agenda? Who will set the moral tone for our state – Colorado's spiritual leaders, or those with another agenda?

If you feel as strongly as I do that Christian people must take a stand in favor of Amendment 2, please return the enclosed "Concerned Pastors' Involvement Form." It suggests several ways in which Colorado for Family Values may be of service to your congregation in "sorting out" this issue. It also presents several essential but discreet ways in which you and your congregation may consider being involved.

We will be glad to help you educate your congregation about Amendment 2, the rights of homosexual persons, or how to more effectively minister to homosexuals. We will gladly make available to you fact sheets, bulletin inserts, plus other literature and speakers. (In fact, feel free to reproduce, or use as resource, any of the enclosed material that is printed under CFV's letterhead. Other materials may be ordered through CFV or directly from other organizations, such as the Family Research Institute.)

Come November, a YES vote on Amendment 2 will ensure that homosexual citizens will retain equal rights with other citizens, while enabling churches to continue bringing them the redeeming love of God through Jesus Christ. We hope you will support our efforts with your prayers, and we welcome your questions or suggestions. Let me offer you in closing my personal assurances that CFV's campaign will proceed, in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, "...with malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right..."

Sincerely in Christ,

Will Perkins

Will Perkins
Executive Board Chairman, CFV

Encl.

Concerned Pastors' Involvement Form

DEAR WILL AND CFV:

I am deeply concerned about the "gay rights" issue. I agree with you that, while we must minister Christ's love and hope to homosexuals and their loved ones, "sexual orientation" should not be given special minority rights and legal protections here in Colorado.

[ ] Please send me more information about Colorado for Family Values, including monthly updates on CFV's progress.

[ ] I'm open to having CFV speakers address my congregation, or smaller groups, about the "gay rights" issue.

[ ] I will designate a Sunday in September to receive an offering for Colorado for Family Values.

[ ] I will reproduce the non- copyrighted materials for further distribution.

[ ] I will encourage my congregation to register to vote and to vote in November.

Name and Title_____

Church or Fellowship_____

Address_____

Telephone (Office)_____

(Please return this form, in the envelope provided, to **Colorado for Family Values, P.O. Box 190, Colorado Springs, CO 80901**. Paid for by Colorado for Family Values. Will Perkins, Executive Board Chairman. Kevin Tebedo, Director.)

P.S. The language below will actually appear in the Constitution. Please be sure that all of your people understand that a "YES" vote is needed to prohibit special rights for homosexuals.

Amendment 2, proposed by Colorado for Family Values, reads as follows:

"NO PROTECTED STATUS BASED ON HOMOSEXUAL, LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL ORIENTATION. Neither the State of Colorado, through any of its branches or departments, nor any of its agencies, political subdivisions, municipalities or school districts, shall enact, adopt or enforce any statute, regulation, ordinance or policy whereby homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices or relationships shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of, or entitle any person or class of persons to have or claim any minority status, quota preferences protected status or claim of discrimination. This section of the Constitution shall be in all respects self-executing."